

The South African MISSIONARY

“Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”

VOLUME X.

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THANKSGIVING.

Composed by F. Wiles, and dedicated to the opening service of our camp-meeting at Bloemfontein.
Tune; “Duke Street,” No. 19, Hymns and Tunes.

O LORD, our God, with grateful hearts,
We raise our chant of thanks and praise,
That through another year Thy love
Has kept us through these testing days.
From distant fields in harvest white,
To bless Thy name we meet again,
Who through the year now past have toiled
To gather in the golden grain.
Guided and kept, Thy remnant band,
Those that the truth has made so free,
Have toiled from morn till dewey eve,
On tropic veldt to southern sea.
Each hallowed Sabbath, day of rest,
Has marked the year with heavenly ray;
Has brought us to the Saviour's feet,
And nearer to His advent day.
Dear Lord, as gathering in Thy name,
We miss those loved ones now that sleep—
Their labours done,—dear Jesus bend
And hush the hearts of those that weep.
We pray for pardon, dearest Lord,
For many sins that we have done.
We pray for grace from day to day,
That we the heavenly race may run.
We ask Thy benediction, Lord,
To rest upon us while we pray.
Accept our grateful songs of praise,
And crown with joy our opening day.

“One Soweth, and Another Reapeth.”

IN the beginning of February a request came to me from the church at Salt River that I should pay them a visit, and see a sister who desired to be baptised.

I went on the evening of Sunday, the 12th. When I came to Brother Fisher's house, where the church meet, and had scarcely sat down,

I noticed that the room was beginning to fill. Inquiring what the meaning of this was, I was informed that a meeting had been called on account of my promised visit, and that I was expected to address them. Accordingly I spoke to them (some 24 adults and a number of children had come in) on “Witnessing for God through Baptism,” using Cape Dutch as my medium. Apparently it was granted me to get very near to the people's hearts, for seldom have I had the privilege of addressing an audience who seemed to drink in my words like these coloured brethren did. Before I left I was surprised to find that baptism was not only desired by the one sister who had called for me, but that there were several candidates, whose cases and circumstances interested me a great deal, they being as follows:—

First, There was a blind brother from Worcester, who for the last twenty-four years had not been able to earn anything for himself, and is wholly dependent on his relatives. He explained to me that the truth had come to him through the work of our Brother Theunissen, the Lord co-operating with the message-bearer through dreams which had guided him into acceptance of the message. He said that his relatives were very much against him, and that he had desired to be baptised away from home on their account.

Second, I was introduced to a little bright-eyed woman who was stone-deaf. The sister who accompanied her spoke of the sweetness of her

mind, and the readiness with which she had accepted the truth. This case appealed strongly to me, and naturally I inquired how such a person had been taught. They told me that she had lost her hearing when a child of eight years, but could speak Dutch, and was able to read words from any one's lips who spoke plainly. Faithfully repeating what she so read, so that others could judge if she understood it, she had in this labourious way imbibed the principles of righteous living, and was joyfully walking in the way of God.

Third, A young girl was there whose mother belongs to the “Rustica” Church. She had lately qualified as a government teacher, but on account of religious difficulties placed in her way, had refused to accept a position. In the past she had assisted the little company at Salt River, and now presented herself for baptism, being very desirous of giving her life in service to Him who has become her Saviour.

Fourth, Apart from these the case was put before me of the sister who had had me called, a resident of Piquetberg, and of her mother, both married women who had for years been with us in practice, but had never been baptised on account of serious opposition in their homes.

When I went home that Sunday night, the feeling was with me that I had come from a feast, so interesting and enjoyable had the hour been to me which I had spent with those people. However, there were yet more good things in store. The next day two younger girls, twin-sisters to

the young teacher, likewise requested baptism, and were both accepted. This made seven cases in all, representing faithful work for the Lord and His kingdom on the part of several whom God may in mercy credit for what they have done in trying to bring these souls into the fold of Christ.

Baptism was fixed for the evening of Friday, February 24th, at the "Rustica" Chapel. All came, and were solemnly buried with Jesus. The girl-teacher, after the candidates, all becomingly robed, had mounted the platform to make confession of their faith before God and His people, addressed the gathering, and gave a brief yet most satisfactory account of her desire to be baptised. After her spoke the blind man. Then did the mother and her daughter reply to the questions that were asked, and made mention of the difficulties under which they adhered to the faith. After them the twins kneeled down together asking the Saviour to accept them. Last of all the deaf woman bowed in prayer, and the entire congregation lifted up their hearts to the Saviour who accepts the deaf and the blind, the lame and the halting. Then, while the choir sang in the chapel, the audience went down to the baptistry, and witnessed the act prescribed by the Saviour as a seal of faith, and an introduction to a new life.

To add to the pathos of the proceedings, a lame man was observed sitting near the baptistry, his eyes fixed on the spectacle he had never witnessed before.

May the Saviour take to Himself all the praise and glory of events like the above described.

Those whose hearts thrill with desire for the extension of God's work in the earth, realise keenly the weight of eternal consequences of an occasion like this. It was one for the renewal of vows, the clearing away of doubts, of decisions formed, and impressions received that will never fade away. Many who are

not believers stood at the edge of the water as it waved to and fro over the immersed bodies, their faces plainly betraying the power of the voice of God secretly appealing to them to also follow in the Master's foot-steps. May He who is mighty follow up the work, gathering more glory to His own dear name!

HUBERTUS ELFFERS.

School Work in Nyasaland.

WE had arranged for a special council of our native teachers at the main station to be held January 13-16. It was also planned to celebrate the ordinances of the sacrament at the same time, and we hoped a baptism service could be held for some candidates who have been receiving instruction two or more years. Notices were sent to our teachers in the out-schools, and all came except four at the new school lately opened by Mrs. Rogers, and six at our Monekera out-station who failed to receive the notice. It was not thought best to call the teachers from the school which was only well begun. And we now see that this was wise, as the school has grown from forty-five at the opening to about ninety at last report.

The teachers in heathen villages find a strong tide of wicked customs and practices to work against, and we like to gather them in to the main station two or three times a year for communion with the church. Thus they are greatly strengthened and encouraged. It is our plan to send "them out two and two," and if the school is large or perhaps two schools near together, even three or four go, some of them being beginners under a head teacher. The teachers of near-by schools usually meet together on Sabbaths, and they always gather the people for Sabbath-school and preaching. Some of our European workers try to make a visit to each out-school once a month. Unfortunately we are not always able to accomplish this desirable end, on

account of other duties or sickness.

At the time of our special January meeting, we had cause to appreciate fully the help of another brother on the station, namely Brother Ellingworth. Mrs. Rogers experienced about the worst attack of fever that she has yet suffered, which began two days before the appointed meetings and continued until the meeting closed. On the 17th we were obliged to send her to Blantyre in a machila for the higher altitude. The fever finished with congestion of the brain which no person, apparently, could live through for many days. This experience forces upon us the necessity of having a cottage in Blantyre, or at some other favourable place, for a refuge in sickness. Such a place would save more than its cost in a few years' time. At present the only place we can go is to a hospital or a hotel, where the expense is from ten to twelve shillings a day. As near as I can estimate, without going into the accounts, our workers have paid about £50 in this way during the past four years. £50 would build a nice cottage, and furnish it with plain necessities. It is probable that we could get some income from renting it a part of the year.

At the ordinance service twenty-six members, besides Europeans, took part. They seemed to realise the meaning of this sacred service. Many members are scattered at their homes this time of the year, and some twenty or more live at Monekera sixty miles away. We hope to celebrate the ordinance at that place soon. In council with our teachers we have planned some changes in the school terms which we believe will add very much to the success of our educational efforts. Instead of one long term running through the fever season, we have arranged for two terms, one of them particularly for the training of teachers, with our long vacation during November, December, and January, which are the very hot, trying months, as also the native planting time.

It will be necessary to bring about

these changes gradually which we shall do during this year. In 1912, all working as planned, our school terms will be conducted as follows:—

a. February, March, April, Teachers Training School . . . Three months. The whole of these three months are to be given to those preparing for teaching, and the better training of those already teaching.

b. May to October, Village Out-Schools, and Anglo-Vernacular School at Main Station . . . Six months.

c. November to January, General Vacation . . Three months. During this vacation period, some teachers will go to their homes from 100 to 200 or 300 miles to preach among their villages. All students who want work for earning tax money, etc., will be given work at regular wages in our cotton fields and other industries, as these three months are the time of hoeing and planting. This plan will also leave the European workers free to oversee industries, and for those who need rest or change to have it without breaking into their school duties.

There are also other advantages which those in the field will appreciate. It is not unlikely that these changes may reduce the number in our schools temporarily, but we are very sure that ultimately the attendance will be increased thereby. We trust it will be as the time of gathering and concentrating the various units of a great army preparatory to the final charge,—in this case upon heathen superstition in this part of Central Africa. For this we pray and invite you, our readers, to pray sincerely.

J. C. ROGERS.

Canvassers' Letters.

[The following letters were received by our Missionary Agent, Brother Clark. He evidently thought these too good to enjoy alone, and so say we. "Pass on it" is our motto.—*Editor.*]

This was my experience to-day in my canvassing work. It happened that I passed a one-roomed tin shanty

Weekly Report of Book and Paper Sales.

The Paper Work.

Natal-Transvaal Conference, for week ending February 24, 1911.

NAME	TERRITORY	PAPER	NO. SOLD	VALUE OF PAPERS
Mission Company,	Jo'burg,	Miscellaneous	314	6 15 0
Totals,	Agents, 1		314	£6 15 0

Cape Colony Conference, for week ending February 24, 1911.

M. E. Smith,	Claremont,	Miscellaneous	12	3 6
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The Book Work.

Natal-Transvaal Conference, for week ending February 24, 1911.

NAME	PLACE	BOOK	HRS	ORDS	VALUE	HELPS	TOTALS	DEL'D
Mission Company, Jo'burg,	S. P.		147	156	40 3 6	9 10 9	49 14 3	1 19 0
E. Enochson, Boksburg,	P. P.		21	7	6 19 6		6 19 6	
H. Schmidt, Maritzburg,	B. R.		34	8	7 12 0		7 12 0	
T. G. Crouch, Pretoria,	D. & R.		28	11	11 3 6		11 3 6	1 1 0
Totals,	Agents, 4		231	182	£65 18 6	£9 10 9	£75 9 3	£3 0 0

Cape Colony Conference, for week ending February 24, 1911.

J. F. Terry, Longlands,	P.P.		32	2	1 5 0		1 5 0	29 15 6
P. E. Frost, East London,	P. G.		15	3	2 19 0	1 16 0	4 15 0	4 6
H. J. P. Dwyer, Overex,			70		4 0 0		4 0 0	4 0 0
Totals,	Agents, 3		117	5	8 4 0	1 16 0	£10 0 0	£33 19 0

at least half a dozen times, waiting for a favourable opportunity to canvas two Zulu boys who were staying in that room. To-day at dinner time I felt impressed to pass that little room again to see whether I could not bring a copy of *Christ Our Saviour* to those men in their own language. I noticed that the door was open and I went in and told them my mission, showing them the copy I had in hand. Their faces cheered up and one said, "I dreamed last night that God sent an 'umfundisi'—teacher, to me with such a book; am certain that this is the book." The other immediately followed by saying, "I have seen you pass here several times and wondered every time what you had with you, and why you were passing here." I told them then that I knew now that it was the Spirit of God that impressed me to call on them and was certain that God wanted them to receive a rich blessing from reading these books. The result of this was that I took five orders, two *Seer of Patmos* and three *Christ Our Saviour* in Zulu. We cannot afford to skip a

single room without giving its inmates an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the truth for this time. We must faithfully sow the seed and God will give the increase.

JOHN J. BIRKENSTOCK.

It will soon be two months since I started my work here in Johannesburg, and I have enjoyed it very much so far. Sometimes when I have done very poorly, I have felt like going home, for I know the others have all done better than I, and it makes me feel disheartened. Then I try to think what was the cause of my failure. I went to every house and did my best, and yet I have failed and it still puzzles me. I try to hide my feelings when I have failed, but sometimes I can't.

My courage is strong in the Lord. He has blessed me more than I deserve. I want to press on to the end.

JOEY GRADWELL.

SINGLE Beds and new Mattresses can be rented at Bloemfontein for the camp-meeting at five shillings.

South African Missionary

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Editor: - - Mrs. R. C. Porter.
Kenilworth, Cape.

Later Information Regarding Railway Rates.

Just as we go press word comes from the railway company that all rates of delegates will be one and one fourth fare for the return journey, and all who wish can go on the rates whether delegates or not. All, therefore, attending the conference will plan accordingly.

R. C. PORTER.

Notice to Canvassers.

Do not fail to be at Bloemfontein at the camp-meeting and remain to Bookmen's Convention and Canvassers' Institute. Let us avail ourselves of these golden opportunities to improve in God's work.

Bring your Bibles, hymn-books, Canvassers' Manual, prospectus, and copies of full books for which you expect to canvass. Be ready to assist in every good word and work. Above all things let us bring the Spirit of Christ with us. G. H. CLARK.

Rescue The Perishing.

SOME of our brethren about a fortnight ago, when returning from the Emmanuel Mission, came to a certain village where they spent a full day discussing the Sabbath question with the inhabitants. They seemed much pleased to hear that there is a church on earth that believes and teaches nothing but the inspired word of God. Some of these we learn were members of the Baptist Church, which, how it came to desert and leave these perishing souls to their fate, is a problem rather too difficult for us to solve. But can we not suspect the hand of the Lord in this? "We perish!" said they to our brethren. "Come

to help us! We will listen to the voices of the Great Shepherd and obey this commandments."

Pastor Emmerson has gone to see them. I believe he will spend the Sabbath with them as he left yesterday late. I wonder how many thirsty souls are there that have not yet heard of the remnant church and its doctrine? Will our brethren obey the calls and caution these perishing souls of their impending doom?

We hope the Pastor will bring us good news.

[The "good news" is contained in Pastor Emmerson's report of the last issue.—*Editor.*]

Z. P. MAREANE,
Native School-Teacher,
at Kolo Mission.

Notes.

—The poem in this week's issue will be sung on Friday morning, March 17, the opening day of our camp-meeting. Let our people take notice of this, and cut out the poem and insert it in their Hymns and Tunes, that it may be in readiness when wanted.

—Pastor J. C. Rogers has so far mastered the language as to be able to preach in the vernacular without an interpreter. This he has done for some months past. He has also—with assistance from his native teachers—written and translated a reading book of seventy-two pages, and has some hymns ready for printing.

—Sister Etta Austen has arrived home safely from the Malamulo Mission. She stopped over a few days with her brother in Johannesburg, also visiting the mission family. Sister Etta was almost two years on the mission there, and without fever until a few days before leaving, when she had a slight attack.

—Pastor R. C. Porter left the Cape the evening of the 6th, for Bloemfontein, where he goes to perfect arrangements for the camp-meeting. He was joined at Worcester by Pastor D. C. Theunissen.

—Doctor Thomason of the Plumstead Sanitarium was invited by Mr. Tennyson Smith, the noted temperance evangelist, to testify of the injurious effects of alcohol upon the system, in his famous "Trial of Alcohol," at the City Hall, Cape Town, on February 28. The jury was composed of twelve men, six against and six in favour of temperance. The defence was ably conducted by Attorney Shaw, of Cape Town. But for the clear and convincing evidence produced in the doctor's testimony, the judge, and many of the leading citizens said the verdict in favour of temperance would have been lost. The hall was filled, and their appreciation was shown by frequent and hearty applause. It caused us to appreciate more highly the heaven-sent principles of health reform.

—A most encouraging letter was received from Sister O. A. Olsen by the last mail. I quote a few lines from her letter that her many African friends may hear from her as well: "I have often felt that I would like to write you and let you know how much I enjoy reading your good paper, the MISSIONARY. As I know some of the good workers over there, it does me so much good to read their reports, and it does do my heart good to learn how the work is progressing. It is truly wonderful how the Lord is blessing His work in South Africa. O I am so glad! It cannot be very long now before the work will be finished in the earth, and our dear Lord will come to gather His faithful children home. . . I thank you for your kindness in sending me the dear MISSIONARY. It is so full of life and good cheer. With much love and kind regards to friends, I am your loving sister in this blessed truth."

—Those coming to the camp-meeting, on arrival at Bloemfontein, inquire for the camp-ground located near Victoria Park. Some of our workers will be appointed to meet all trains at the opening of the meeting. Consult them regarding the transfer of baggage.